



**TESTIMONY ON HB 515 – Rep. William Glaser  
Senate Education and Cultural Resources  
March 12, 2007**

Good afternoon, Chairman Ryan and members of the committee:

For the record, I am Pete Carparelli, Executive Director of the Montana Quality Education Coalition.

**I appear as a proponent of HB 515 sponsored by Representative Glaser.**

Today, MQEC supports passage of HB 515 that is before you because it believes that this bill is a 21<sup>st</sup> century way of addressing section (2) (e) of 20-9-309 MCA providing for “distance learning technologies associated with meeting the accreditation standards.” We see it as bringing a very real quality component of instructional delivery to our schools, especially to our small, rural and isolated schools that can use distance learning technology to access curricula otherwise not available to them at local school sites.

As good as HB515 is at opening curriculum and addressing instructional quality through distance learning, we think the impact of the bill would be vastly increased if it were set within a comprehensive funding system composed of a more adequate basic entitlement, per elementary and per high school entitlements that were more rationally determined and adequate, increased direct State Aid. This could be achieved by further amendment to 20-9-306 MCA that HB515 now amends. Short of this more comprehensive and articulated approach to improvements in funding, HB 515 does address one component of the State’s definition of quality, so we support it to that extent

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this afternoon. Thank you, Rep. Glaser for bringing HB 515 to the Legislature.